

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 ACDA-07 ERDA-05 IO-13 OES-06
NRC-05 EB-08 /112 W
-----271650Z 012766 /46

O R 271405Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2987
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NEW DELHI 6035

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IN, UR
SUBJECT: GROMYKO VISIT: SOME VEILED CRITICISM OF THE US

SUMMARY: DURING THE SECOND DAY OF HIS VISIT TO NEW DELHI,
SOVIET FOREIGN SECRETARY ANDREI GROMYKO MET FOR NEARLY TWO HOURS
WITH PRIME MINISTER MORARJI DESAI IN THE MORNING, ATTENDED A
LUNCHEON IN HIS HONOR GIVEN BY INDIAN FOREIGN SECRETARY A.B.
VAJPAYEE, AND HAD FURTHER TALKS IN THE AFTERNOON WITH VAJPAYEE.
ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS OF HIS LUNCHEON REMARKS, GROMYKO
TOOK THE OCCASION OF DISCUSSING INDO-SOVIET RELATIONS TO MAKE SOME
THINLY VEILED CRITICISMS OF THE UNITED STATES. IN HIS REMARKS
VAJPAYEE THANKED THE SOVIET UNION FOR ITS ASSISTANCE TO INDIA BUT
STRESSED THE DIVERGENCE OF SYSTEMS AND THE SIGNIFICANC OF THE
"PEACEFUL REVOLUTION" WHICH BROUGHT THE JANATA PARTY TO POWER.
END SUMMARY.
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1. IN HIS REMARKS FOLLOWING THE LUNCHEON GIVEN BY HIS
INDIAN COUNTERPART APRIL 27, SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO IN
DISCUSSING INDO-SOVIET COOPERATION MADE THINLY VEILED CRITICISMS
OF THE UNITED STATES. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, GROMYKO SAID,
"IF THERE ARE SOME WHO DO NOT LIKE IT, TO WHOM THE FRIENDSHIP
BETWEEN THE TWO PEOPLES AND COUNTRIES DOES NOT APPEAL, THESE ARE

PRECISELY THOSE WHO SEEK TO HAMPER DETENTE, WHO INTRODUCE COMPLICATIONS IN INTERNATIONAL LIFE, WHO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHERS". GROMYKO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE SOVIET UNION WAS FOR SINCERITY AND FRANKNESS IN POLITICS AND THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT ONE COULD NOT POSE AS A CHAMPION OF DETENTE IN WORDS AND POISON THE ATMOSPHERE OF INTERSTATE RELATIONS IN ACUAL FACT. HE IS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE ADDED THAT ONE COULD NOT ADVOCATE ARMS LIMITATIONS IN WORDS AND AT THE SAME TIME STEP UP MILITARY PREPARATIONS, OR SPEAK OF EASING MILITARY CONFRONTATION IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND AT THE SAME TIME,INTENSIFY THE CONSTRUCTION OF MILITARY BASES THERE.

2. REGARDING INDO-SOVIET RELATIONS, GROMYKO SAID THAT THE COURSE TOWARDS THE CONTINUATION AND ENRICHMENT OF SOVIET-INDIAN COOPERATION WAS IN KEEPING WITH THE SOVIET UNION'S CONSISTENT POLICY AND THAT THE TALKS WHICH HAD BEGUN MADE IT POSSIBLE TO REACH THE CONCLUSION THAT THE INDIAN SIDE WAS ALSO GUIDED BY A SIMILAR DESIRE FOR COOPERATION.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 NEW DELHI 6035

"ALL THIS MEANS THAT THE SOVIET-INDIAN RELATIONS HAVE NOT ONLY A GOOD PAST BUT ALSO A GREAT FUTURE," GROMYKO SAID. HE SAID THAT THERE WAS A MUTUAL NEED TO DISCUSS SOME QUESTIONS OF SOVIET-

INDIAN COOPERATION, BOTH CURRENT AND LONG TERM, AND TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS POSED BY THE PRESENT WORLD SITUATION. IT WAS THE SOVIET UNION'S "INVARIABLE DESIRE". TO SEE PEACE LOVING INDIA AS A STRONG AND PROSPEROUS POWER. GROMYKO STRESSED THAT HIS GOVT WAS PREPARED TO HOLD CONSULTATIONS WITH INDIA ON QUESTIONS RELATED TO THE INDIAN OCEAN. IN THE BROADER CONTEXT, GROMYKO SAID THAT THE USSR WAS READY TO DISCUSS VARIOUS MEASURES IN THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT, INCLUDING THE CREATION OF AN INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE, PROVIDED THERE IS SERIOUS, CONSTRUCTIVE AND FRANK DISCUSSION.

3. IN HIS LUNCHEON SPEECH, INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER A.B. VAJPAYEE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT "THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN
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THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE STRONG ENOUGH TO SURVIVE THE DEMANDS OF DIVERGENT SYSTEMS, THE FATE OF AN INDIVIDUAL OR THE FORTUNES OF A POLITICAL PARTY". SUCH FRIENDSHIP HAD BEEN REFLECTED IN THE INDO-SOVIET TREATY, HAD STOOD THE TEST OF TIME AND HAD REMAINED A CONSTANT FACTOR FOR PEACE AND STABILITY IN ASIA AND THE WORLD. VAJPAYEE SAID THAT THE PEOPLES OF BOTH COUNTRIES REALIZE THAT LASTING PEACE WILL REMAIN ELUSIVE WITHOUT PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE WHICH MEANS THE RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHT OF OTHER COUNTRIES TO HAVE THE POLITICAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC SYSTEM OF THEIR OWN CHOICE AND MAKING. VAJPAYEE REPORTEDLY DESCRIBED GROMYKO AS "AN OFFSPRING OF A MIGHTY REVOLUTION" AND ADDED THAT THE PEOPLE OF INDIA WHO HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF FATALISM AND INDIFFERENCE HAVE QUIETLY BROUGHT ABOUT A PEACEFUL REVOLUTION THAT IS "UNIQUE IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD". THE PEOPLE, HE SAID, HAVE GIVEN THE JANATA GOVT A MANDATE TO BRING ABOUT A NEW SOCIAL ORDER BASED ON DEMOCRATIC FREEDOM AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY. VAJPAYEE REITERATED INDIA'S DESIRE TO BE FRIENDS WITH ALL COUNTRIES AND SAID IT WAS A MATTER OF GREAT SATISFACTION THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAD "GRASPED OUR HAND OF FRIENDSHIP AND WE CHERISH OUR RELATIONS WITH YOU". HE SAID INDIA APPRECIATED SOVIET HELP IN INDUSTRIALIZING THE COUNTRY AND THE SOVIET UNION'S "CONSISTENT AND PRINCIPLED SUPPORT" OF INDIA IN DIFFICULT TIMES.

4. VAJPAYEE ALSO SPOKE OF DISARMAMENT AND DETENTE. HE SAID THAT DESPITE A PLETHORA OF RESOLUTIONS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTENT, THE GOAL OF COMPLETE AND TOTAL DISARMAMENT REMAINED A DREAM. NOT ONLY WAS THERE NO REDUCTION IN THE EXISTING STOCKPILES, HE SAID, BUT MORE FEARFUL WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION ARE BEING ADDED. IT WAS NOT ENOUGH TO HAVE A WORLD WHERE WAR IS KEPT IN CHECK BY THE BALANCE OF NUCLEAR POWER. THE NEED, HE SAID, WAS NOT TO BALANCE TERROR, BUT TO BANISH IT. IN THIS CONTEXT, VAJPAYEE SAID, INDIA HAS "VOLUNTARILY AND UNILATERALLY PLEDGED THAT IT WILL USE NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY ONLY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES AND WE WILL SUPPORT EVERY EFFORT TO ELIMINATE ALL THE MEANS OF DESTRUCTION FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH". ON DETENTE, VAJPAYEE SAID THAT

EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO EXTEND IT TO ALL REGIONS WHICH ARE STILL
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TORMENTED BY CONFLICT. REGARDING SOUTH ASIA, VAJPAYEE SAID THAT
INDIA WAS CONSTANTLY TRYING TO NORMALIZE AND IMPROVE RELATIONS AND
EXPAND COOPERATION WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.

5. AFTER HIS TWO HOUR MORNING SESSION WITH PRIME MINISTER
DESAI, GROMYKO TOLD THE PRESS THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT NOT
ONLY WOULD THE PRESENT LEVEL OF RELATIONS BE PRESERVED BUT RAISED
IN THE FUTURE. HE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT HE HOPED "THE INDIAN PEOPLE
WANT THAT, THE SOVIET PEOPLE WANT THAT AND THE WHOLE WORLD WANTS
THAT" BECAUSE INDO-SOVIET RELATIONS DID NOT POSE A THREAT TO
ANYONE. BRIEFING NEWSMEN LATER, INDIAN FOREIGN SECRETARY
JAGAT MEHTA SAID THAT THE TALKS HAD BEEN WIDE RANGING AND CONFIRMED
THE DESIRE OF BOTH GOVTS TO PRESERVE AND STRENGTHEN TIME-TESTED
RELATIONS IN THE SPIRIT OF THE INDO-SOVIET TREATY. THE SOVIET
LEADER HAD EXPRESSED RESPECT FOR INDIA'S NON-ALIGNED
POLICY AND THE INDIANS HAD EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR SOVIET HELP
TO INDIA. DURING THE MEETING WITH MR. DESAI THE DISCUSSION WAS
ON BILATERAL RELATIONS. AT THE AFTERNOON SESSION, DISCUSSION
FOCUSED ON SOUTH ASIA AND INDIA'S NEIGHBORS IN PARTICULAR. THERE
WERE ALSO SIMULTANEOUS TALKS ON AGREEMENTS TO BE SIGNED BEFORE
GROMYKO'S DEPARTURE APRIL 27.
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